



DIRECTORATE: ANIMAL HEALTH

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK CONTINGENCY PLAN

Introduction

The goal of this ASF contingency plan is to guide state veterinarians to detect, report and contain ASF in animals as quickly as possible and in such a manner that food security and the economy is minimally affected whilst protecting public health and the environment.

Suspicion of disease

If reports from the public/farmer/veterinarian/animal health technician come in to the state veterinary office that there is a suspicion of ASF or an increase in pig mortalities, the state veterinary officials needs to visit the area/property to conduct an investigation.

The investigation needs to include a proper history and a post mortem with relevant samples for laboratory testing. Please refer to the 'Disease Outbreak Investigation Guideline' compiled by the Veterinary Epidemiology Working Group and available on www.dalrrd.gov.za on conducting an on farm investigation.

On suspicion of ASF based on the history and clinical signs and/or post mortem findings, the farm should be placed under quarantine pending investigation.

Sampling

The best samples in order to obtain a diagnosis for confirmation of ASF in an outbreak situation are organ/lymph node samples (fresh but kept cool/frozen) for PCR. These samples need to be sent to ARC-OVR – Transboundary Animal Diseases Laboratory in leakproof containers together with the submission form. On the submission form all the details of the property where the samples were taken need to be recorded and the history of the case recorded on the back. A copy of the submission form should be sent to epidemiology@dalrrd.gov.za.

Serology is of limited use during an active outbreak investigation and it is advisable to discuss serum sampling with the Directorate Animal Health (DAH) if considered.



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It is of utmost importance that strict biosecurity is maintained when visiting farms. Different sets of protective clothing and shoes should be used between farms and vehicles and equipment need to be thoroughly washed and disinfected before visiting another farm.

Reporting

All suspicions as well as all incidences of pigs testing positive for ASF (irrespective of the reason for the testing and irrespective of whether an infection has been confirmed or not) have to be reported to the DAH immediately (epidemiology@dalrrd.gov.za can be used). This includes occurrences that commenced previously, but that are ongoing and have not been resolved by eradicating the outbreak.

Once ASF has been confirmed, the provincial state veterinarian responsible for the area needs to submit a full report, which must (at least) include the following:

- i. Completed SR1 form;
- ii. a copy of test results (if available);
- iii. a full account of the history of the herd and animals that tested positive and other susceptible species that will most likely play a role in this disease outbreak;
- iv. details of any epidemiological investigation conducted and actions taken and the outcome thereof;
- v. copies of all relevant documentation, including correspondence with the owners, quarantine notices etc.
- vi. the proposed action plans for further investigations and control measures.

Upon receiving the SR1 report, DAH will report the disease outbreak to the OIE as required.

The neighbouring farms must be informed about the suspicion or confirmation of an outbreak of disease. The owner / manager of the affected land is responsible for sharing this information (Section 11 of the Act) but it is recommended that the SV also informs all the owners / managers of the adjoining land, if required.



The initial report has to be followed by regular follow-up reports, detailing any new occurrences and the progress made with regard to control of the disease. The required frequency for such follow-up reports should be agreed between the provincial officials and DAH.

Quarantine

On suspicion of ASF based on the history and clinical signs and/or post mortem findings, the farm should be placed under quarantine pending investigation. This quarantine notice should be given in writing and rather than prohibiting all movements, inform the owner and surrounding properties of the risks involved in the movement of these animals and to put movement control by means of permits in place;

The quarantine notice must include the following:

- i. An instruction that any morbidity or mortality of any animal of a susceptible species on the land must be reported immediately to the responsible State Veterinarian for a full investigation, irrespective of the purported reason for such morbidity or mortality.
- ii. Deceased animals must be disposed of correctly to prevent subsequent infection of other animals. (Methods of disposal must be approved by the responsible State Veterinarian)
- ii. Recommendation for effective perimeter control in order to protect adjoining land.
- iii. Reference to Section 11 of the Animal Diseases Act with regard to informing the owner or managers of adjoining land and prospective buyers.
- iv. An instruction to get a full register of all animals of all susceptible species as well as their origin, currently present on the land as well as identify them.

Forward/Backward Tracing

A full backward and forward tracing exercise must be conducted for all pigs, going back to the most likely date of first introduction of the infection (21 days prior to the first clinical sign/mortality). This would include the trace back of food sources, if swill is fed.

Appropriate action should be taken by the SVs at origin and destination as determined by the tracing exercises.



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Action plans for control of the outbreak

An action plan for control of the outbreak must be developed in a consultative manner between the farmer/owner/manager of the pigs and the veterinary services with inputs from the community where the outbreak occurred and other role players eg SAPPO or the local municipality or environmental affairs etc.

The action plan must include the following aspects:

a. Biosecurity

Biosecurity measures implemented on the property should include the keeping of pigs in pig-proof enclosures, the practices regarding people visiting and protective clothing when working with infected pigs etc;

b. Movement controls

Prevention of movement of susceptible animals and potentially contaminated products from or through the property should be specified;

c. Resources

The resources that will be required for the action plan to be implemented should be specified as well as who would be responsible for supplying these resources;

d. Culling

The owner of the pigs may decide to cull due to welfare reasons, or in order to eliminate the source of infection on the property in order to restock/prevent infection of other animals. Culling of animals is voluntary, but the methods for culling must comply with welfare standards and be approved by the state veterinarian (it is recommended that a veterinary official or private veterinarian is present to oversee the culling process). Compensation will not be applicable for voluntary culling.

e. Disposal

The plan should specify where and how mortalities or other contaminated products/objects will be disposed of;



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f. Disinfection

The methods and products that will be used to disinfect the premises and equipment etc needs to be specified;

g. Surveillance

This should include the plan for surveillance on neighbouring land, properties identified during forward and backward tracing as well as any susceptible wildlife present in the area;

h. Lifting of quarantine

The requirements that need to be met in order for quarantine to be lifted need to be determined and stipulated in the plan, as well as when/if properties can be repopulated;

Once the action plans are approved (by DAH and the Provincial Veterinary Services), they must be enforced on the affected land by means of state veterinary orders in terms of the Animal Diseases Act that determine specific time lines for the actions to be taken. The approved action plan must be regularly evaluated and amended if indicated, according to the disease situation, following the same procedure as mentioned above.

Closure of outbreaks

For reporting the closure of an outbreak to the OIE, DAH requires a follow up SR1 report with the following information included:

- How many animals were affected (died, culled, still alive)
- Proposed date of closure of the outbreak
- What surveillance was performed in the outbreak area
- The suspected source of infection
- Whether there was tick involvement in the particular outbreak (if known)


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